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PROGRAM NBC Sunday Night News

STATION WRC TV
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Replay on SUNDAY WASH. Post story on W.E. Colby
~~SOME FILES ON UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES DESTROYED~~ *INTERVIEW*

TOM SNYDER: Good evening.

William Colby, the Director of the CIA, ordered most secret reports of the Agency's unlawful activities destroyed in 1973. The files reportedly contained information on assassination plans and other CIA activities, activities that were not reported to the White House.

During an interview published today in The Washington Post, Colby said he now recognizes the White House should have been told, adding that all of this happened when he was succeeding James Schlesinger as CIA Director and that each man thought the other would make the White House report. Schlesinger is now the Secretary of Defense.

As for Colby, he has made few public statements since the CIA came under public scrutiny earlier this year. His interview with The Washington Post could signal a change in that policy of silence, as Ford Rowan reports.

FORD ROWAN: CIA Director Colby is going public, trying to explain CIA wrongdoing, trying to minimize damage to his agency. But sources say his comments have raised additional questions about the lack of control over the CIA by both the White House and Congress.

According to his interview with The Washington Post, Colby did not immediately turn over the results of the 1973 internal CIA investigation to the Justice Department, conceding, in retrospect, that "There's no question about it; we should have reported evidence of violations of the law."

Colby did tell two congressional leaders, Representative Lucien Nedzi and Senator John Stennis, but they did nothing. And now Colby agrees that wasn't enough.

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But most importantly, Colby didn't immediately tell the White House and National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger about the results of the internal investigation. "This one does embarrass me a bit," he told the Post reporter.

Sources say Colby's explanation has the effect of letting Kissinger off the hook. Reports have been circulating in Washington for weeks that Kissinger is unhappy with Colby and will seek his replacement when the CIA hearings have been completed. The Senate Intelligence Committee plans to look beyond the individuals involved, to examine the entire executive command structure over the CIA.

Ford Rowan, NBC News, Washington.

SNYDER: Senator William Proxmire, a Wisconsin Democrat, released a speech late today that he'll deliver in the Senate tomorrow, claiming that eighty or ninety percent of all CIA activities have not been tarnished by the Rockefeller Commission Report. Proxmire says the talk of disbanding the CIA is unreasonable and could be a danger to the United States.

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SNYDER: Feminist Betty Friedan said today that the women's movement in the United States is suffering from a paralysis of leadership, and she believes the CIA might be responsible for it. Ms Friedan said the CIA infiltrated and manipulated other organizations and the same things might have happened to the feminist organizations.